

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION V

DATE: 12/24/90

SUBJECT: 12/11/90 Boat Tour of the Grand Calumet River

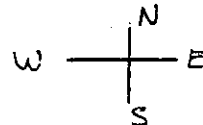
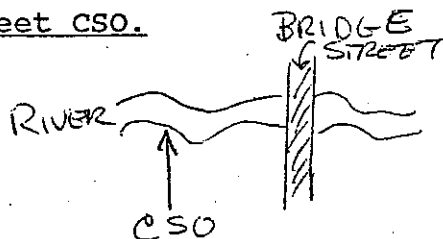
FROM: Ron Kovach

TO: File

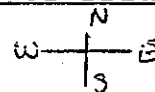
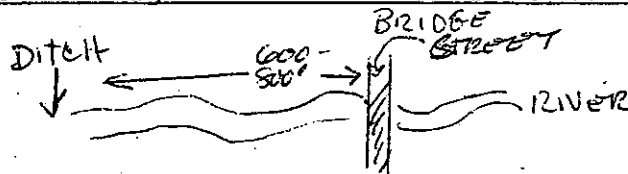
On 12/11/90, a boat tour of the Grand Calumet River was conducted in order to evaluate the accessibility of the river by boat and to fine tune the SCP required sampling locations. Participating on this tour were Ron Kovach, (USEPA), Kevin Hursey, (USX), Robert Simon, and Gerald Nauer, (both Robert and Gerald represented Floyd Browne and will be doing most of the sampling this summer).

The launch site for the tour was on the north side of the river at Buchann street in Gary. The tour navigated upstream to where the Indiana toll road crosses the river by a GSD CSO. From there, the tour went downstream all the way to the LTV Steel outfall 001 in East Chicago. In general, the river quality was much better than anticipated. Several different species of birds, animals, and fish were seen. Specific observations of the river are as follows:

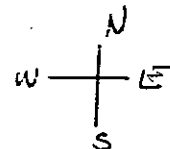
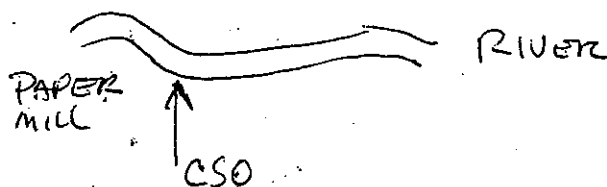
1. Bridge street CSO.



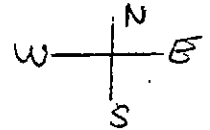
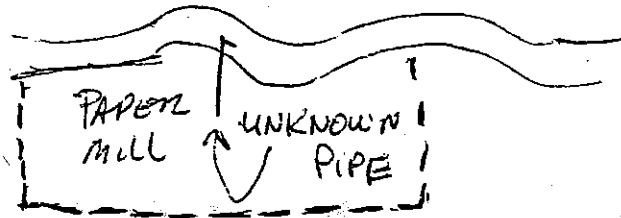
2. Unknown drainage ditch 600-800 feet west of Bridge street.



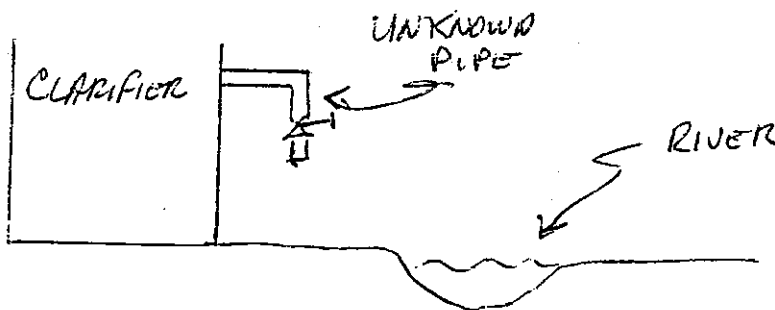
3. CSO east of Georgia-Pacific Paper Mill.



4. Unknown pipe (intake?) running from the river onto the Georgia-Pacific property. This may be an intake pipe to the river or a discharge pipe from the company. This needs further investigation.

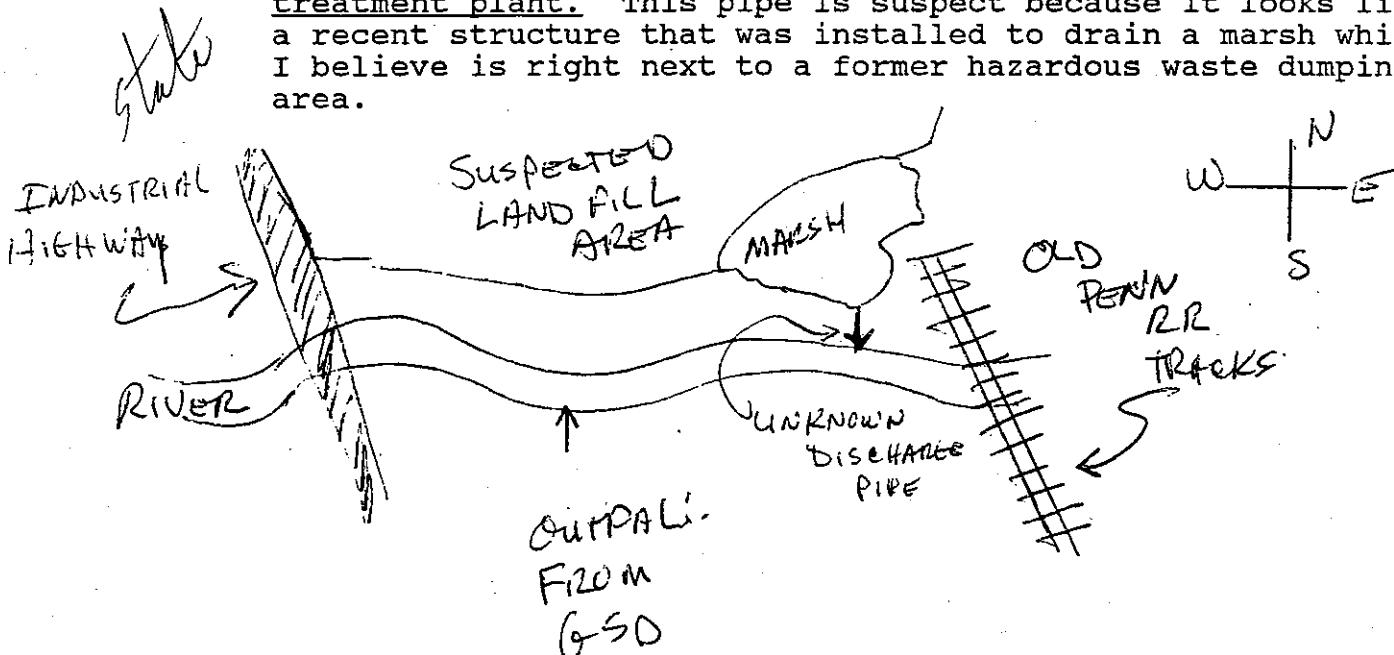


5. Unknown pipe coming off of Georgia-Pacific clarifier towards the river. This pipe was coming off of the lander section of the clarifier. We did not notice any discharge from the pipe, but it was evident that if the pipe was opened, any discharge from it would run into the river. Also, it is very puzzling as to why the plant would construct such a pipe at that specific location if the intent was not to bypass the normal discharge points for the clarifier.

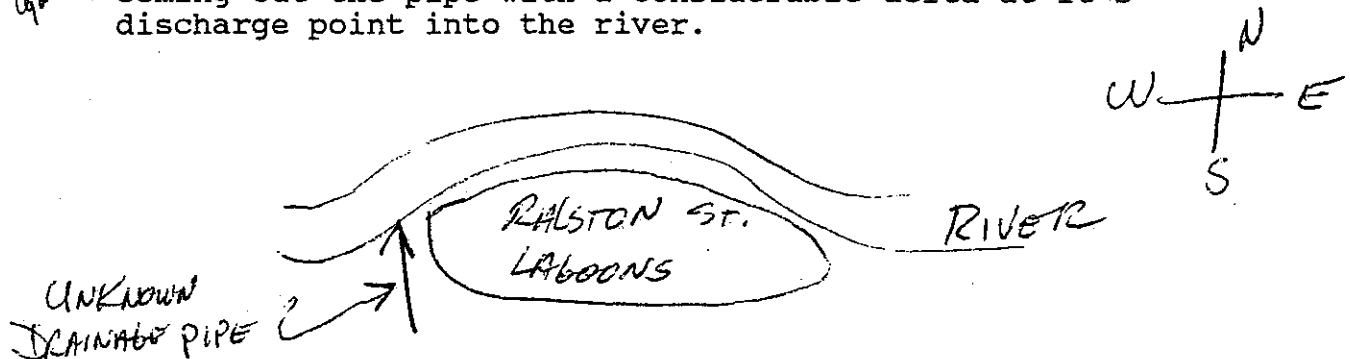


*Order on 308
Do Plant Inspection*

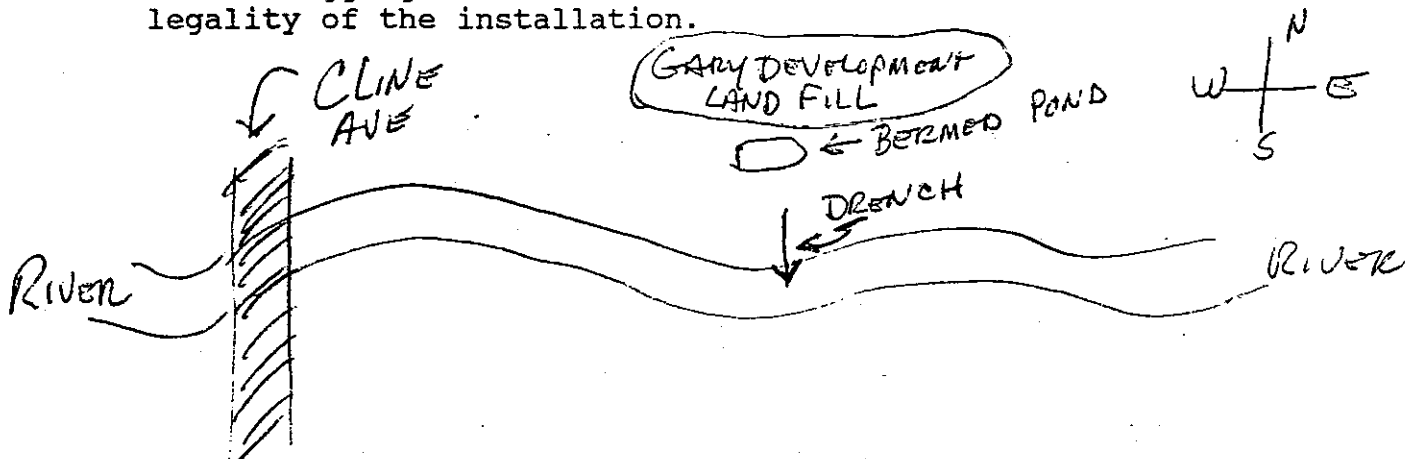
6. Unknown discharge pipe on the north side of the river just west of the old Pennsylvania Rail Road tracks by the GSD treatment plant. This pipe is suspect because it looks like a recent structure that was installed to drain a marsh which I believe is right next to a former hazardous waste dumping area.



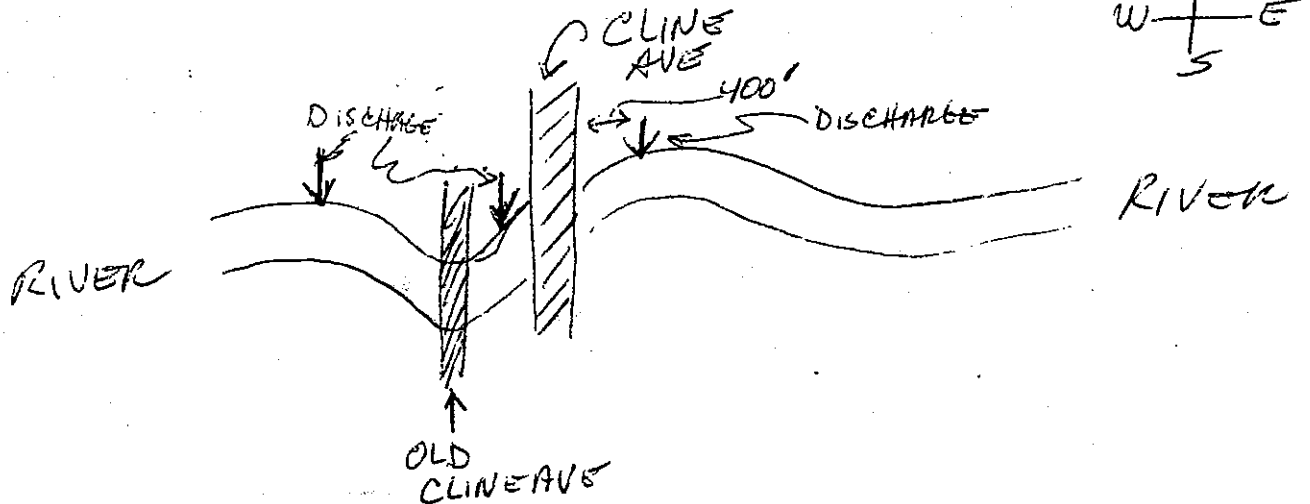
7. Unknown drainage pipe just outside of the western perimeter of the Ralston street lagoons. There was quite a flow coming out the pipe with a considerable delta at it's discharge point into the river.



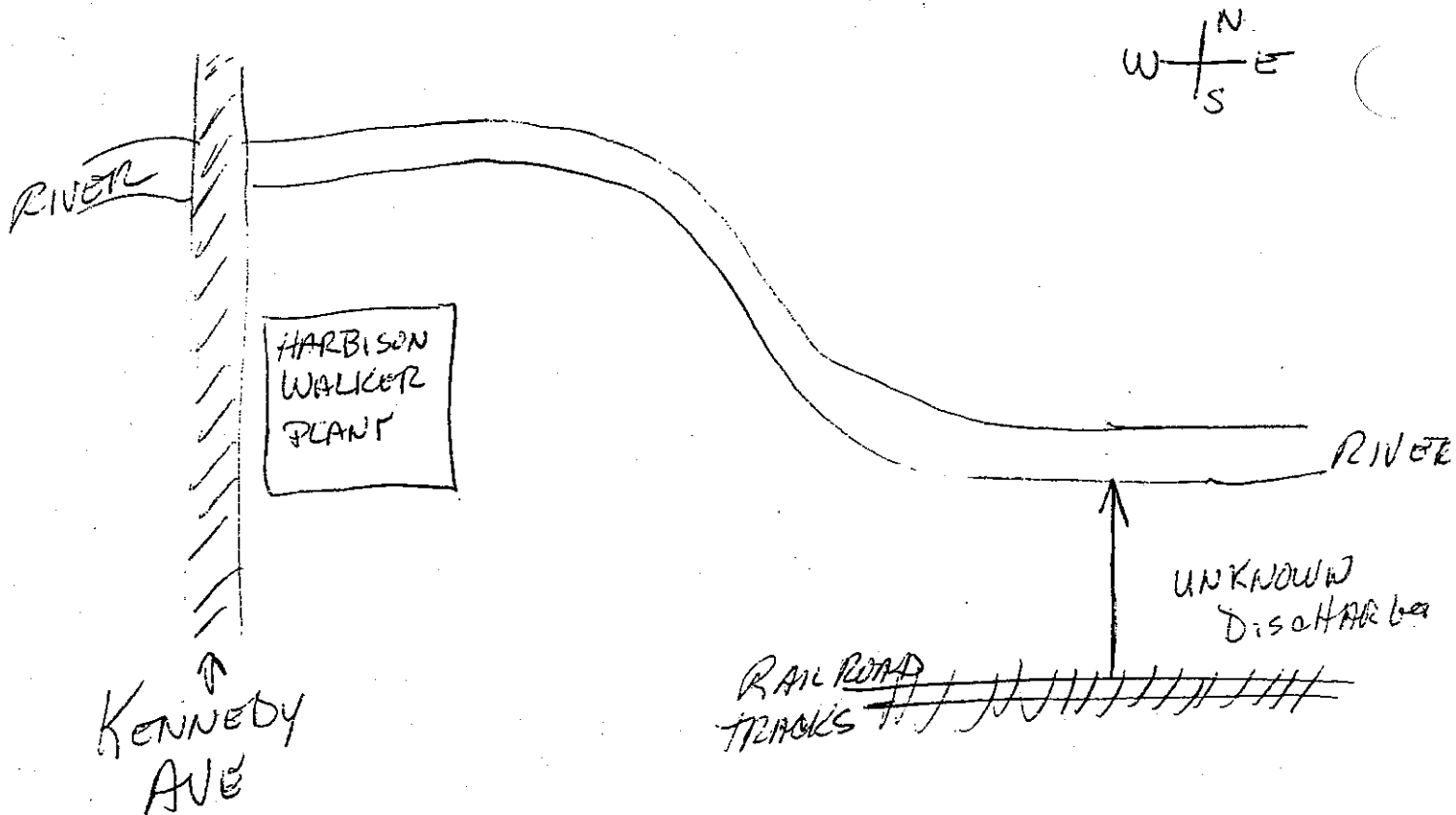
8. Under construction discharge pipe from the Gary Development Co., Inc. Sanitary Land Fill. A back hole was digging a drench in order to lay a drainage pipe into the river. On 12/12/90, Larry Hagen, V.P. of the Corporation, was interviewed by Ron Kovach as to the nature of this drainage pipe. Mr Hagen showed Mr Kovach a drawing (dated 1980 and approved by the Indiana Board of Health) that indicated a drainage pipe running from a ponded area to the river. Mr Kovach was told that this pipe would only drain surface water. Mr Kovach informally advised Mr Hagen that he should not construct this drainage pipe unless Mr Hagen had in writing the proper approvals to do so. Mr Hagen said that he would do so. During the 12/12/90 interview, Mr Kovach had to walk by the uncompleted drainage pipe trench. It appeared that the drainage pipe would drain an area that was both bermed and lined with a synthetic liner. Mr Hagen neither confirmed nor deneigned this observation. Mr Hagen did say that his son was the operator of the back hole who was digging the drench during the previous day's observation by the river tour group. Mr Hagen also stated that he had ceased digging the drench until he was assured of the legality of the installation.



9. Unknown discharge pipes on the north side of the river just east and west of Cline avenue. These discharge pipes appeared to be for surface drainage.

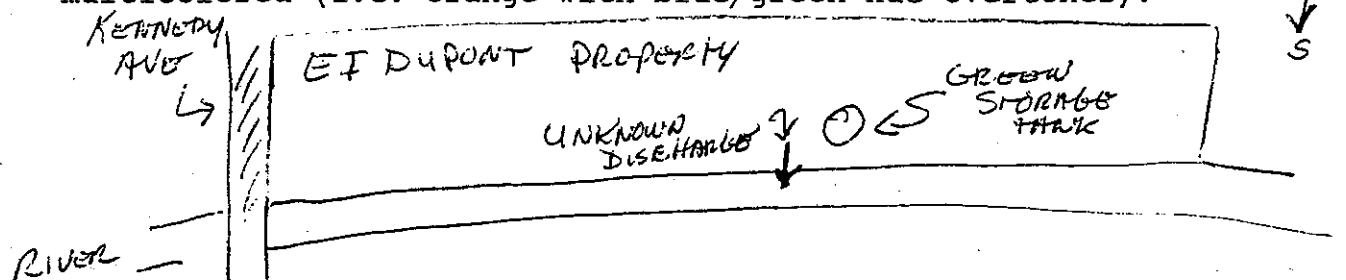


10. Unknown discharge approximately 1500 feet east of Harbison Walker plant on the south side of the river.



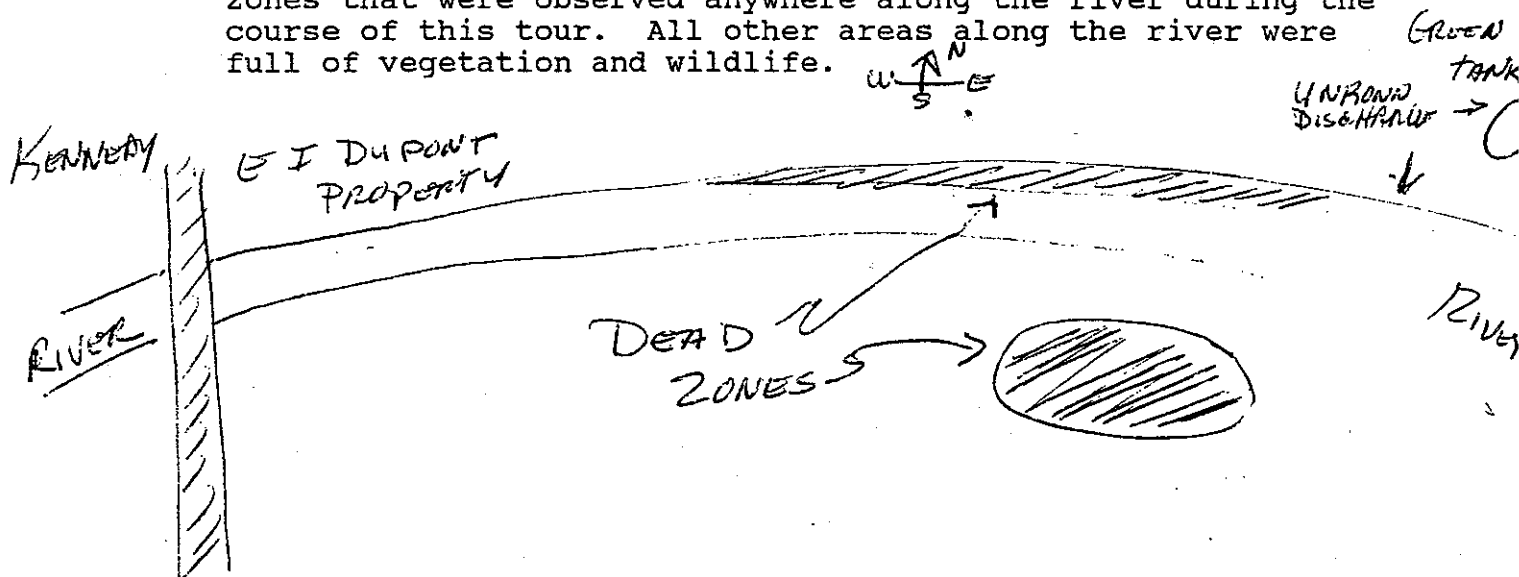
11

Unknown discharge coming from E.I. Dupont. This discharge was just west of a large green colored vertical storage tank that is just north of the river's edge. The discharge was approximately 2 inches deep by 30 inches wide and multicolored (i.e. orange with blue/green hue overtones).

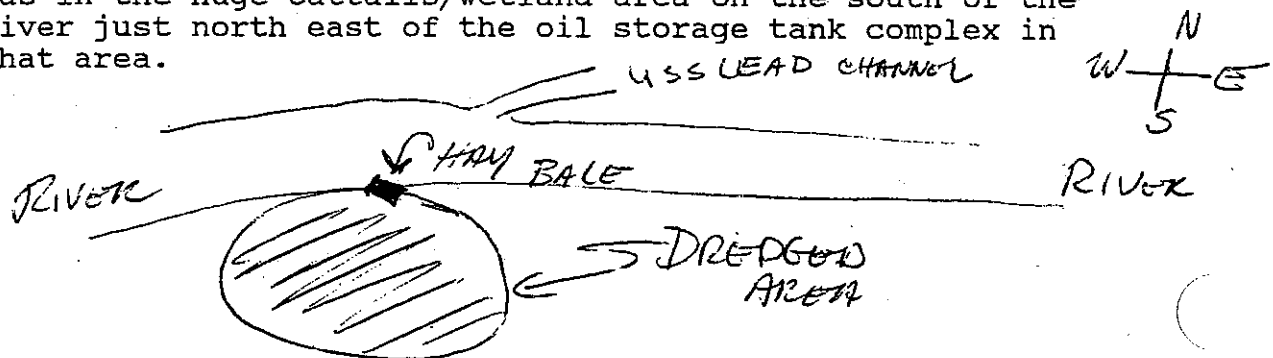


12

Dead zones across from the E.I. Dupont property. There were several obvious areas of vegetation distress in both the banks on the north side of the river and the wetlands just across from E.I. Dupont. There was one large circular area (approximately 100-150 feet in diameter) in the wetlands that appeared as though someone had taken a flame thrower and burnt all of the vegetation in that area. There was also a strip of flood plain (approximately 15 feet wide by 200 feet long) on the north side of the river just downstream of the unknown discharge referred to in item 7. above, that was completely void of any observable plant life. Both of these dead zones were the only truly dead zones that were observed anywhere along the river during the course of this tour. All other areas along the river were full of vegetation and wildlife.

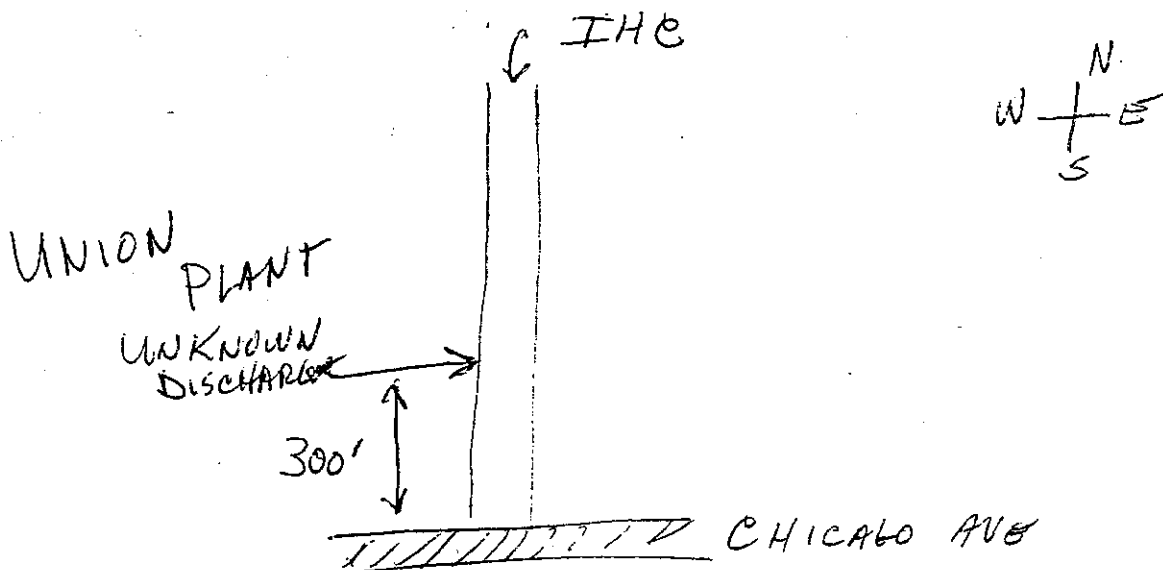


** 13*
wetlands
Dredged area just south of USS Lead Refinery discharge channel in wetlands. In the wetlands on the south side of the river just across from the USS Lead Refinery discharge channel (which is on the north side of the river), was a huge recently dredged area approximately 500-1000 feet diameter (Note-just in front of this site was a man in a boat who identified himself as an Indiana University student doing river oxygen update work for Mike Unger. This boat person said that he had been at that same location 12 months previous and there was no dredged area at that time. Also, the sharpness and of the dredged area's perimeter indicated recent activity there). In one corner of the dredged area there was a 10 wide direct opening to the river that had a bale of hay stuck in it. The main body of the dredged area was in the huge cattails/wetland area on the south of the river just north east of the oil storage tank complex in that area.

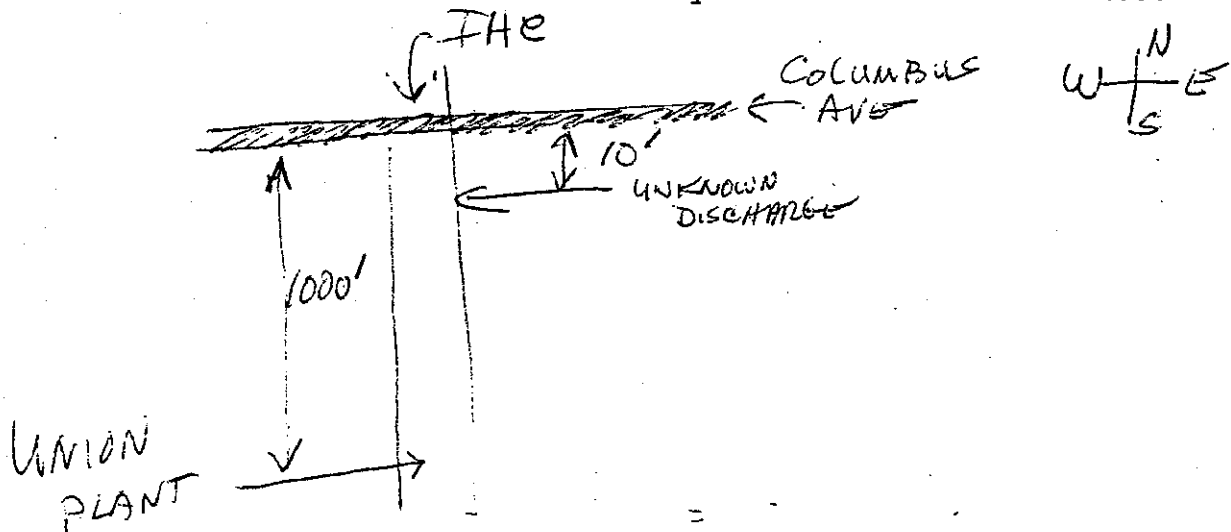


TANK FARM

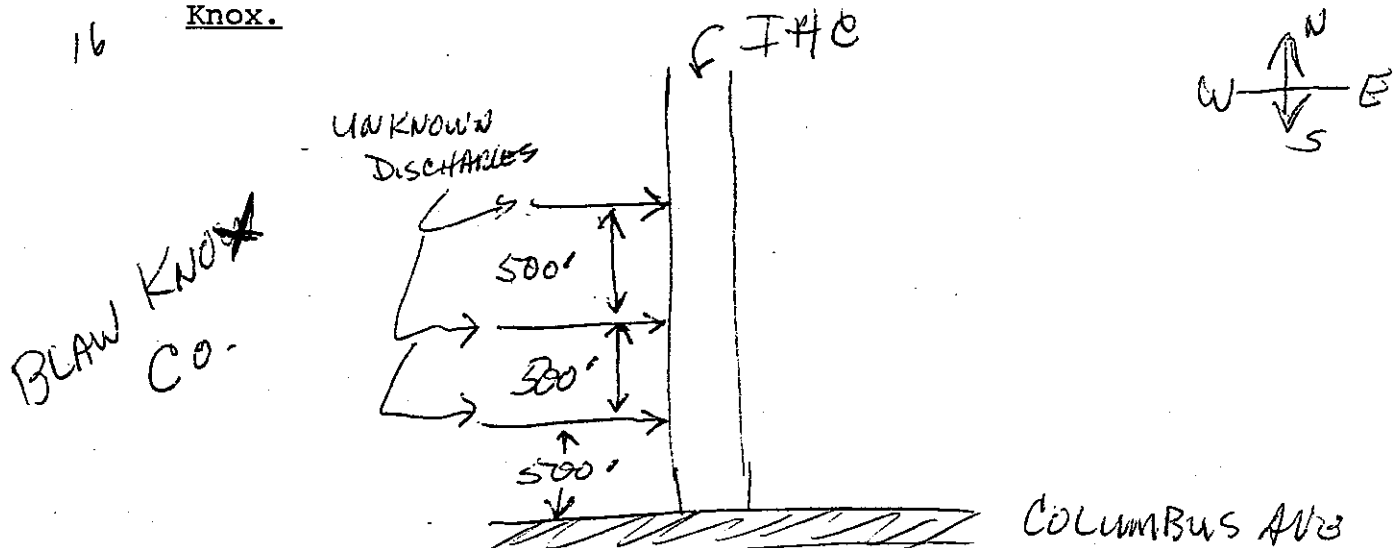
14
Unknown discharge 300 feet north of Chicago Avenue on the west side of the river from Union plant (?).



- 14/15 Unknown discharges 10 feet and 1000 feet south of Columbus Drive (?). There is an unknown discharge about 1000 feet south of Columbus Drive (?) coming from the Union plant. There is a second unknown discharge coming from the east side of the river just 10 feet south of Columbus Drive (?). There is also a large drain pipe (about 30 inches in diameter) underneath Columbus Drive (?) that appears to be a storm sewer drain. Note- the ? marks after Columbus Drive mean that during the tour, there may have been a mislabeling of the streets in the IHC section of the tour between the junction with the GCR and Columbus Drive. Never the less, the location and reference to any industries is accurate.



- 12/16 Unknown discharges just north of Columbus Drive from Blaw Knox.



For the record, there was a VHS video recording made of the trip by USX. They have verbally agreed to supply the Agency with a copy of it, but have as yet to do so.

cc T Bramscher
M Mikulka
B Tolpa
J Fillippini
H Zar
P Redman

Mike Kuz